

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,017,330 to Hitchins et al. (hereinafter "Hitchins"); and rejects claims 4, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchins. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Hitchins fails to anticipate the pending claims because it does not disclose or suggest an injection device including an injection nozzle and a "tube being fixed to said nozzle with the aid of connecting means, the connecting means comprising at least three bosses which are integral with the nozzle," as recited in claim 1. Referring to Fig. 1A of Hitchins, the Office Action cites Hitchins as disclosing an injection device 5 including an injection nozzle 20, tube 50, and connecting means 28. The Office Action further asserts that the connecting means includes three bosses 120, 120', 128, 128' (shown in Fig. 3B). See Office Action at page 2.

However, item 20 in Fig. 1A of Hitchins, cited in the Office Action, is not an "injection nozzle" under any reasonable interpretation of the claim language. For example, it is apparent that item 20 in Hitchins is not an injection nozzle through which an active substance is ejected, but rather an injection device that includes mechanical means for activating a plunger. As stated in col. 7, lines 19-31 and 43-51 of Hitchins, the injector 20 includes a housing 21 which has a piston 22, where the piston cooperates to move plunger 15 to actuate injection of a liquid from housing 10 into a patient. In this regard, Hitchins appears to disclose means for connecting syringe housing 10 to injector 20, but does not suggest any connecting means for connecting a nozzle to a syringe tube, as is embodied in the claimed subject matter.

The connecting means cited in the Office Action (120, 120', 128, 128'), relates to structure that is intended to connect syringe component 10 with injector 20, where injector 20 includes mechanical means for actuating plunger 15.

In this regard, Hitchins discloses an injection device including syringe housing 10 where an active liquid substance would be injected through aperture 24, by actuating piston 22 to move plunger 15. If anything, item 24 in Fig. 1A of Hitchins may illustrate a nozzle component. As stated in col. 14, lines 43-46 of Hitchins, during use, syringe 10 may be connected to a needle in order to transport fluid into a patient. Hitchins describes a unitary structure that includes (referring to Fig. 14) a syringe housing 50' that is integrally formed with injection nozzle 24'. Accordingly, Hitchins does not disclose any embodiments where the injection nozzle is connected to the syringe housing with any connecting means. Accordingly, the device in Hitchins is not relevant to an injection device where, for example, one is concerned with forming a leak-tight connection between the tube and the injection nozzle in order to prevent the introduction of impurities. See, e.g., pending application at page 3, lines 6-11.

Summarizing, there is no indication or disclosure in Hitchins that item 20 functions as a "injection nozzle" under any reasonable interpretation of the claim language. For example, there is no indication that injector 20 in Fig. 1A of Hitchins contains any active substance that is injected. Additionally, there is no indication that any active substance passes through item 20, and item 20 only appears to contain mechanical features that actuate piston 22. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Hitchins.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and therefore are also patentable over Hitchins for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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